

Aruba's new Parliament sworn in



Edison Briesen

ORANJESTAD – In the presence of family and friends, 21 members of Aruba Parliament were sworn in yesterday morning. The ceremony began at exactly 10 am and officiated by Governor Fredis Refunjol and his assistant.

Aruba's new Parliament consists of 7 females of the 21 seats: 3 from AVP and 4 from MEP. After 8 years, the baton was passed as Presidente of Parlamento to a male drs. Andy Lee. and Vice President

Paul Croes.

The People's Party (AVP) won 48 percent of the vote in the recent election and will control 12 of 21 legislative seats, according to results by the Elections Council.

"I am convinced we will make Aruba a happy island again," People's Party leader Mike Eman said as thousands of people unfurled the party's green flag and set off firecrackers to celebrate.

Oduber's People's Electoral Movement, which has held

power since 2001, won 36 percent of the vote and will hold 8 seats. The last spot went to the Democratic Party. Eman's party won in part on promises to eliminate the 3 percent cumulative tax on local businesses and to lower inflation on the Dutch Caribbean island, a tourism-based economy that is dependent on imports and known for high prices.

Eman also pledged to address concerns about lagging tourism – down 5 percent in the first half of the year – as well as impending layoffs by Valero Energy Corp., which owns the island's refinery. San Antonio-based Valero has said it will dismiss several hundred contract workers at the refinery, which has been closed since mid-July. It has not decided the fate of 780 permanent employees there. The Elections Council said 85 percent of 64,600 voters participated in the September



Nilo Swaen

vote. Aruba obtained full autonomy in its internal affairs when it separated from the Netherlands Antilles in 1986,

but the Dutch government still oversees defense and other areas.

More on Page 8



Marisol Lopez Tromp



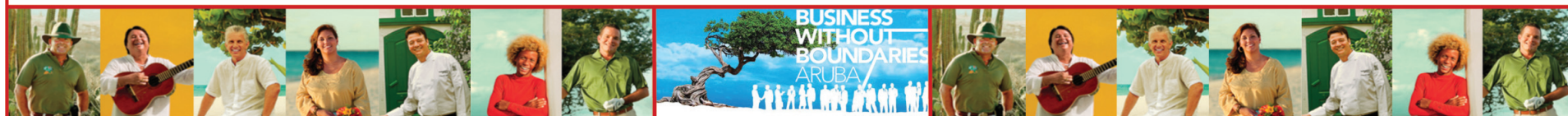
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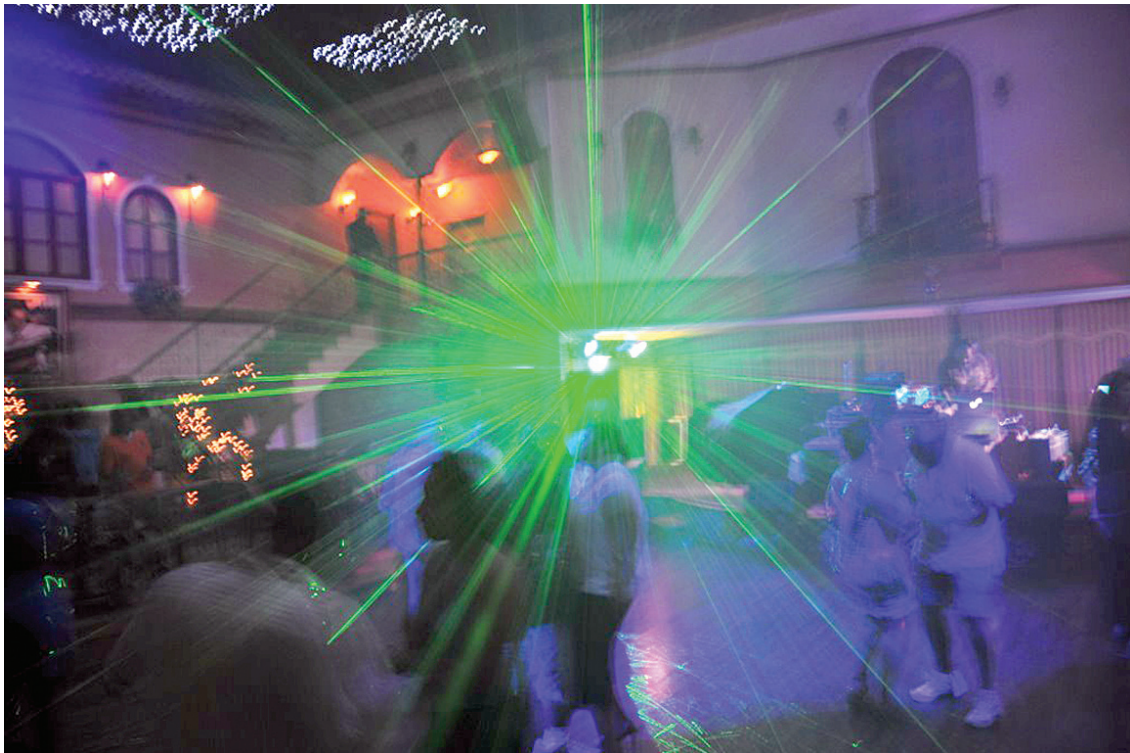
WELCOME SITE Friends



SITE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2009 OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 2



Mr Jazz is inviting you to express yourself, on Sunday



PALM BEACH – After a long day on the beach on Sunday, Mr Jazz at Paseo Herencia is inviting patrons for a chilled out and relaxing evening. The popular Supper Club on Palm Beach is offering a Karaoke and Open Mike Night, designed to unwind locals and

vacationers.

Kick back and enjoy a unique Cuban-American menu with grade-A steaks, fresh seafood, and typical Cuban dishes, at a 20% discount or drop in for some cocktails – mojitos are house specialties, at \$4

all night -- and watch the fun performances as members of the audience become the stars of the show.

Whether with an instrument or an open mike, you are invited to make use of the stage at Mr Jazz, as well as the sound



system! Express yourself, and be a star for the night, the house DJ will provide you with music and backup electronics.

Karaoke, Open Mike, a 20% discount on food and Happy Hour, sounds like a winning combination. ☐

FRIGHT NIGHT
HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST 8PM
CASH PRIZES UP TO
\$1,500.00
FOR SCARIEST, FUNNIEST AND MOST ORIGINAL COSTUMES!
FREE SNACKS AND SCARY BEVERAGES!

nCleo's
 Sports Bar & Grill
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 with Happy Hour from 6 to 8

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At ChinoLatino in The Village Indonesian Rijsttafel introduced on Sunday

THE VILLAGE - The Indonesian Rijsttafel, which features seven specialties cooked up by chef Marcel, should definitely be enjoyed by everyone. This is a culinary heaven, tasting the Ajam Smoor chicken stew, the Rendang beef stew, Sambal Boontje, green beans, fried eggs Indonesian-style, Curried Grouper, fried banana, Chicken Saté and Bami Goreng, Nasi Goreng, atjam

tjampoer and white rice. For those who are not familiar with the Indonesian kitchen, the evening will be a trip to wonderland. Taste buds will go into overdrive when the spices and herbs, vegetables and meats come together in a feast. When Indonesia used to be in Dutch hands, its healthy and exotic dishes became favorites really soon and the people from Holland have embraced the endless varieties of the Indonesian kitchen ever since. The Indonesian Rijsttafel is especially good: a bountiful buffet with many dishes, some of which are quite 'pica' (hot). Don't forget to make reservations for the terrific Sunday evening Indonesian Rijsttafel, which is an absolute hit at ChinoLatino



in The Village, across from the Radisson Resort on the high-rise strip.

ChinoLatino's special buffet night starts at 5 pm. The kitchen keeps serving until 1 am. Reservations for the feast (for a minimum of two persons) should be in by Saturday and the kitchen only serves the Rijsttafel, so no à la carte menu. □

Senor Frog's Aruba presents:

"TRICK OR TRIP" at Senor Frog's for Halloween

ORANJESTAD - For those who seek dynamic entertainment and a quality Halloween contest the Annual Halloween Party, Senor Frog's Style is the place to be. This year's theme The Pirates of the Ghost Ship" will surely appeal to all of the guests who are part of our party and with our slogan is self-explanatory, "Trick or Trip, and win a trip to the Mexican Caribbean. The Andersons Group's Senor Frogs has had a rich history with this event. In Mexico and in all its other Caribbean restaurants different theme parties are held with boat loads of entertainment fun. That is why the winner of the Halloween costume contest will be getting a chance to experience a taste of what happens in Senor Frog's restaurants in Cancun, Playa del Carmen and the Island of Cozumel. The Senor frog's Aruba team will be offering the best party on the island, in a well outfitted club with good music, professional dancers, a live MC

that will be hosting the contests and giving out the prizes throughout the night. With one of the best prizes on the island which consists of a trip for two to the beautiful and exciting Cancun, Mexico. **PRIZE PACKAGE INCLUDES: TWO ROUND-TRIP AIR FARES TO CANCUN, MEXICO, A FOUR NIGHTS AT THE ALL -INCLUSIVE RIU RESORT, PLUS THREE DINNERS AT OUR RESTAURANT BRANDS:**

- 1 .- Senor Frogs, Cancun
- 2.-Senor Frog's, PLAYA DEL CARMEN
- 3 .- Senor Frog's, COZUMEL

It is true, they went crazy with this party, but is how this group does things. They ask all participants to be present before 11pm to qualify for the contest. This fest is to be remembered, dare to be different dressed. Thanks to sponsors, Polar, Romar Trading, the support to enable this party! □



Ghosts, Witches and Monsters Too..
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Costumes encouraged!
Spook-Tacular Prize for Best costume.
(will be announced at 10PM)

See You on Saturday October 31st
IF YOU DARE.....

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Special Month of October!

<p>Appetizer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Soup • Onion Soup • Conch Fritters • Escargot • Salad 	<p>Entrée</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it. • Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine. • Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin • Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast
<p>Dessert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chocolate or Banana Cake • Ice Cream • Coffee / Tea 	<p>3-course dinner \$24 per person</p> <p><small>* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.</small></p>



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Dessert • Delicious Halloween caramel flan



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It's a small world, at Amazonia Churrascaria



PALM BEACH – Amazonia Churrascaria hosted a group of Lilliputian students, age 4 to 6 for lunch this week. The diminutive lunch crowd came from the local Dutch school, De Schakel Aruba and was reportedly made up



of the island's most finicky eaters, yet they had no problems polishing off the delicious restaurant cuisine in a miniature version. The students were escorted by



a number of chaperon/limo driving mothers who also enjoyed the field trip very much. □



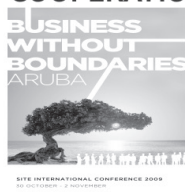
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IN CONECTION WITH A SITE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ,
THE ROAD BETWEEN
THE MILL RESORT AND THE RADISSON ARUBA RESORT
WILL BE CLOSED FOR ALL TRAFFIC
(EXCEPT DESTINATION TRAFFIC)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2009
FROM 3 PM TO 12 MIDNIGHT**

WE APPOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE THANK YOU FOR YOUR
COOPERATION



Larimar Spa smiles are now brighter



PALM BEACH – Larimar Spa at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa now features a new Tooth Whitening service, with certificated dental technician Genoveva Bregita. “Tooth whitening can be a highly effective way of lightening the natural color of

teeth without removing any of the tooth surface,” says Bregita, “it cannot make a complete color change, but it will lighten the existing shade, and give your smile an extra sparkle,” she concludes. Bregita, is now set up to receive clients at Larimar Spa. In

addition to Tooth Whitening, she is also a “tooth jewelry” expert and can place costume diamonds on your teeth without cutting into the natural tooth structure. Costume diamonds or real diamonds can be placed on the tooth surface and add even more pizzazz to your personality. Glitzy teeth, embedded with diamonds and other gemstones, have been embraced as tooth jewelry by hip-hop stars, and have recently gone mainstream. Visit Bregita at her Larimar Spa location and add considerable flair to your personal presentation. Larimar Spa now features a dedicated parking lot so that patrons may park to the side of the spa building and walk right into its welcoming embrace without the need to cross the hotel lobby.

“Just follow the signs,” says Director of Spa Services Bruce Cavan, “and we will gladly usher you from the parking lot to the spa, to enjoy our new treatments.”

Larimar Spa, on Conde Nast Traveler hot spa list, features a spacious relaxation area,



steam, sauna and cold plunge, boutique and a state of the art fitness center featuring a wide variety of services from the traditional to the exotic for both women and men in 13,000 square feet of pure indulgence.

Larimar Spa offers a full service hair salon with two dedicated in-house stylists who

specialize in weddings and gala events. The spa recently introduced a brand new Lava Shell massage that is both dreamy and relaxing, designed to especially delight fans of the popular hot-stone massage.

Pictured here Jeweler of the Mouth Genoveva Bregita and a happy client, and the reception at Larimar Spa. □



NEW POKER ROOM

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The hottest game on the Island

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Registration at the Players Advantage Club booth starting at 12 noon



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For more info please call: 586-1234, ext.4583
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Halloween Lunch Special
Saturday October 31 (noon-4pm)

BBQ 1/4 Chicken	\$9.00
Chicken Jack & Bacon Sandwich	\$9.00
Crispy Onion Burger	\$9.00
Salad & Cup of Soup	\$10.00
Half Slab Original Baby Back Ribs	\$10.00
Chicken Bow Tie Pasta	\$10.00
Cheesy Burger	\$11.00
Fish & Fries	\$13.00
BBQ 1/2 Chicken	\$14.00
Full Slab Original Baby Back Ribs	\$15.00

No substitution on this Special Menu
15% service charge and 3% BBO not included
Prices per person, not valid with any other promotion

For more information and reservation Tel: 586 7427
Open for Lunch & Dinner from 12noon till 11PM
Located across the street from Holiday Inn Resort



\$19.95, All You Can Eat Dinner Buffet

Served daily from 5:00 to 10 p.m (price per person and subject to service charge & tax)

Sundown Special, receive 10% off your meal when seated by 6 p.m.

*Kids Eat Free *Kids under age 12, one per paying adult

Monday Seafood Sampler

Tuesday Bravo Italiano

Wednesday An island favorite - BBQ night

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*** Human Hints Daily ***

Empowerment by Stillness

Movement evokes the illusion of separation. Separation exists only in movement. The hologram disappears in stillness. When we are still, we are everywhere, so there is nowhere to go, and nowhere to come from. Stillness is a direct link to Unity Consciousness. Movement is necessary in three dimensions because action moves you along your life's path. If you were meant to remain still, you would not be in a three dimensional body, so don't try to escape in renunciation of the physical.

Stillness connects us to Infinite Unity Consciousness, which builds our personal power and regains our balance. Sleep is absolutely necessary because it allows the mind and body to be still. Without a temporary escape from movement, Humans very quickly lose their reference point for sanity.

When we become still, the hologram disappears. When our minds and bodies pause their constant movement, the Illusion of separation disappears, allowing us

to become aware that we are all part of Unity Consciousness. When we realize that we're all from the same Source, we realize that we are all a part of the same Infinite Abundance.

In stillness we become aware of our connection with all things, which allows our conscious mind to organize and attract specific energies into our three dimensional lives.

When we focus on our desires from a point of stillness, we magnify our power over the three dimensional illusion. Our conscious knowledge

of Unity empowers our ability to manifest what we focus on. Become still, become aware that you are always connected to Infinite Abundance through Absolute Unity, and imagine your desires fulfilled.

You can become still in a crowd of people, or when demands are being thrown at you. It might help to start finding your place of stillness when you're by yourself, but with practice, you will be able to become still with a single thought, eyes wide open.

No matter how crazy things get, no matter how out of control your life seems, know that you can mentally turn off the Illusion, and quiet your mind for a moment. Let the world come at you, and still your mind. In a moment of stillness, you will instantly receive infinite energy, clarity and balance.

In stillness, you become alone even if the masses surround you. In stillness, the illusion of Polarity disappears, so there is no concept of "other". When you are alone and still in your mind, you know that you are a part of Unity Consciousness and Infinite Abundance.

Abundance and Bliss, no matter what your physical situation tells you. Find a moment of stillness within your mind every day. Pay homage to yourself and be thankful for your three dimensional life. When you come back into movement, remember the moments of stillness. Bringing the sensation of Unity into the physical realm will empower you to take control of your physical life.

Until Tomorrow...

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. Human Hints Daily is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

In Stillness, you will find Unity, and in Unity lies

PO Box 997, Vail, CO 81658

Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable. reservations email us at info@buccaneeraruba.com or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm



Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



Live Flamenco Show & Paella Party tonight at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - Tonight is going to be a great, great night at Casa Tua Barcelona. Don't miss a must see Live Flamenco Show with songbird Angela Croes who will fill the restaurant with flamenco songs and rumba gitana music. Angela is much more than music, she performs authentic Spanish dancing. The show will start around 8:30 pm and be complemented with Casa Tua's famous Paella and some new dishes like baby octopus a la planca and mussels.

You don't have to wait for the show as the highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona are new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad for \$19.95.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

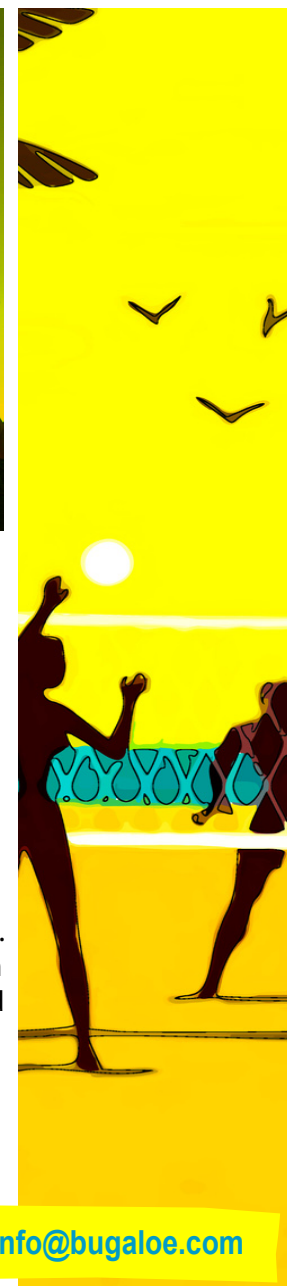


Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown
Open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470



BUGALOE BEACH VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Sunday November 8th
Starts: 9:00am



MENU ITEMS

Burgers, Pizzas, Salads
Sandwiches, Wraps
Wings & Calamari

HAPPY HOUR

Every day from:
5 - 6pm @ sunset

OPENING HOURS

Daily 9 am - 12 pm

website

WWW.BUGALOE.COM

Fun, Friends... and Volleyball www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com

PALM BEACH - Sunday Novemver 8th the popular Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill is organizing the 4th edition of the Bugaloe Beach Volleyball Tournament.

Locals and tourists are teaming up to participate in this funfilled tournament that takes place on the white powered sand of Palm Beach right in front of Bugaloe Beach Bar. There will be 3 team categories FUN (6 players),

ADVANCED (4 players) and PRO (2 players). In a relaxed ambiance several **celebrity DJ's** will play the best tunes while you can enjoy special prices on Amstel Bright and Heineken beer. You are welcome to visit, even if you are not playing. Don't miss it!

Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier on Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.

The after party takes place at Bugaloe Beach Bar with a popular live band on stage. Put the date in your calendar today. Fun guaranteed!

Registration

It's already possible to sign up. At www.ArubaBeachVolleyball.com you will find all the details and also a registration form.



J. E. Irausquin Blvd 79 at De Palm Pier • Tel (297) 5862233 • Fax (297) 5862234 • Email info@bugaloe.com

Aruba's new Parliament sworn in



Andy Lee



Andin Bikker



Candelario "Booshi" Wever



Lainda Westerhof



Paul Croes



Juan David Yrausquin



Rene Herde



Chris Dammers



Xiomara Ruiz Maduro



Lorna Varlack



Melvin Tromp



Marlon Sneek



Donny Rasmijn



Clarisca Velasquez



Evelyn Wever Croes

Ventanas del Mar Restaurant is preparing to open



TIERRA DEL SOL – Famed Ventanas del Mar restaurant closed for renovations for a period of six weeks, is preparing for its much-anticipated opening. The restaurant at Aruba's Tierra Del Sol, Golf Resort, Country Club & Spa is a great favorite among locals and visitors featuring continental cuisine with a tropical twist, serving

delicious meals in an elegant indoor dining room, or on the wraparound terrace overlooking the golf course and the California lighthouse. This week Jorge Curiel of the Aruba Trading Company conducted a wine tasting with the dining room staff under the leadership of Martin Haselhof. The servers were introduced to the restaurant's



new house wine, Cono Sur Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Chardonnay, from Central Valley California, and also sample the prestigious Francis Coppola Diamond Collection Merlot and Chardonnay sold by the glass in the dining room. When the restaurant reopens

in the very near future patrons may look forward to a new look as well as novel flavors. Executive chef Jim Roosman is working on a contemporary Caribbean & French menu to perfectly blend country club dining in a casual yet sophisticated ambiance with

breathtaking views of the California lighthouse and dramatic northwest coast. Food & Beverage Manager Martin Haselhof will continue to conduct staff food & wine training this week and expects it all to come together for an early November opening. □



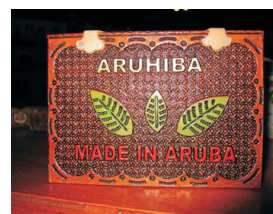
ARUHIBA THE 1 AND ONLY HOMEMADE ARUBAN CIGAR

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba.



Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open on Sunday from 9am to 8pm. And also at Tamarijn Hotel open from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



BUY & RECEIVE ONE ARUBAN CIGAR FREE WITH THIS FLYER

At La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club hosts a unique General Assembly



EAGLE BEACH – The recent General Assembly at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club reflected the fun, diverse and creative work atmosphere at the popular beach resort. General Manager Joe Najjar and his dedicated department heads were in attendance as well as a great number of associates.

The meeting took off with a series of important updates by department heads informing the associates regarding various issues including a comprehensive Financial snapshot, a Food & Beverage overview, an Engineering report and a Human Resources summary of activities. At the heart of the presentation, the results of a recent Guest Survey, with a whopping 224,472 guests in participation. According to survey findings the resort scored very high in overall guest satisfaction, prompting the very-pleased management team to set the goal even higher for 2009.

At its turn, the department of Human Resources outlined the number of associate trainings conducted over the year, and described the loaded social calendar as well as the upcoming mini opinion survey among associates scheduled for the end of the month. New members of



family were welcomed, as quite a number of babies were born to associates since the last General Assembly. To support the healthy weight-loss program in progress at the resort, only low cal snacks were served. A vegetable tray and fruit kebabs topped with yogurt dressing replaced fried favorites while orange juice

took over from soft drinks. The surprise at the end with Zumba Queen Sharon Puy rocked the house with a 15-minute fun workout featuring steamy merenge, salsa and a reggaeton showdown, which was much enjoyed as a high-energy, morale-boosting finale to an already most-entertaining assembly. □



Bijleveld has a hard time selling Plan B



THE HAGUE--Dutch State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten sounded convincing, trying to sell "her" Plan B, the alternative to regulate tasks and responsibilities that Curaçao and St. Maarten can't execute themselves when attaining country status in October next year. But Members of Dutch Parliament (MPs) didn't automatically buy the plan and asked for a follow-up meeting on the

issue.

"In this process you need to have both feet on the ground. The Netherlands Antilles is visibly doing less and less," she said, during a meeting with the Permanent Committee on Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ of Dutch Parliament's Second Chamber.

She told MPs it was important to be realistic in the process, especially where it concerned the diminishing tasks performed by the Central Government on behalf of St. Maarten and BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba.

"You have to understand that the Central Government is not fully operational anymore. We all agree that the Netherlands Antilles has to be dismantled, but you need to have a status for the islands," said the State Secretary, who stressed that parties were working on a

sustainable solution in the best interest of the people.

That sustainable solution is Plan B and the related General Act of Kingdom Government (Algemene Maatregel van Rijksbestuur AMVRB). According to this plan, Curaçao and St. Maarten would come up with plans of approach for the areas they would not be able to properly tackle before the review at the Vetting Round Table Conference.

These tasks and responsibilities would be regulated at the Kingdom level. AMVRB would make it possible for the Kingdom Council of Ministers to intervene and give directions.

This alternative should lead to concrete solutions and improvements in crucial systems like those for maintenance of law and order. Police is "crucial,"

for example, and reviewing whether the new countries can assume responsibility for this task is a "priority," said Bijleveld-Schouten. Plan B arranges matters in a sustainable manner while keeping earlier agreements, she added.

At all cost

The State Secretary shook off concerns by Parliament that she wanted to establish country status for Curaçao and St. Maarten at all cost. She said the review was a matter taken very seriously. Curaçao and St. Maarten had agreed to subject themselves to the "strict regulation" of Plan B and AMVRB.

But, she added, "St. Maarten should also have a chance to build its apparatus. If the review indicates that St. Maarten cannot comply with, for example, operating its own police force, then it will not do so independently, but under the guarantee of solid maintenance of law and order."

Member of Parliament Ronald van Raak of the largest opposition party Socialist Party (SP) has serious doubts about Plan B. "The State Secretary wants to do the exact opposite of what was agreed on. The agreement was that Curaçao and St. Maarten could only become a country when they had complied with all conditions. Now the State Secretary is saying that they will become a country anyway, and afterwards we'll work on compliance with the conditions," he said.

He was surprised to hear from Bijleveld-Schouten that Curaçao and St. Maarten had agreed to Plan B during the September 30 Political Steering Group meeting in Curaçao.

"This could mean that St. Maarten's government will have less to say than a government of Bonaire, in the future. But if the islands agree to this, they have my blessing," he said.

MP Johan Remkes of the liberal democratic VVD party reminded the State Secretary of the October 23, 2008 motion, supported by the majority

in Dutch Parliament, which had stated that St. Maarten could not attain country status until it had ensured proper maintenance of law and order. "The State Secretary is turning the world upside-down. We should stick to the course that we had agreed on. I am not prepared to cooperate with this," said Remkes, who pointed out that this was a sensitive issue, since the Netherlands could be held responsible internationally when the maintenance of law and order was not properly secured in the Kingdom.

MP Cynthia Ortega-Martijn of the Christian Union, the smallest coalition party, agreed that the new countries needed to have things in order in crucial areas like maintenance of law and order and a democratic system of making decisions.

Problem child

MP Ineke van Gent of the green left party GroenLinks said she was concerned about the progress of the process of constitutional reform. She said St. Maarten appeared to have become the "problem child" of the Netherlands Antilles.

"This doesn't make me happy," said MP John Leerdam of the governing Labour Party PvdA, about the recent progress report that Dutch Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relations BZK had prepared. "There is a lot of delay. I am worried about 10-10-10;" he added that the State Secretary should not automatically assume a majority of Parliament would support Plan B.

MP Bas Jan van Bochove of the largest coalition party Christian Democratic Party CDA also wondered whether Plan B was the way to go. He preferred making use of Article 51 of the Kingdom Charter regulating Higher Supervision instead of the General Act of Kingdom Government AMVRB. He pointed out that the CDA faction had never committed itself to 10-10-10.

The NAAZ committee indicated that it wanted to have a separate debate with the State Secretary on Plan B and AMVRB. □

Duncan defends laws to augment Island Council

~ 'Provisions important for growth,' says minister ~



PHILIPSBURG--Minister Roland Duncan defended on Wednesday proposed changes to the Islands Regulation of the Netherlands Antilles ERNA that would expand the island territories' executive and legislative branches and foreshadow an early end to the Island Councils.

Duncan, who is responsible for Constitutional and Home Affairs, stressed that the laws that had gone to the Advisory Council for vetting were necessary as St. Maarten approached country

status. "These provisions are important for growth," he said in a press conference. He had just returned from a week in the Dominican Republic and St. Vincent.

Amendments to the ERNA include appointing two more commissioners to run the government, effectively matching the intended number of ministries, once St. Maarten becomes a separate country. That match would be a good start, the minister told reporters. "It would be good to match those seven ministers with seven commissioners," Minister Duncan said.

Other proposed changes are to allow 15 Island Council members instead of the current 11, and a premature dissolution of the council. "By making the provision to change the ERNA, we can dissolve the Island Council," Duncan said.

Members of the opposition Democratic Party (DP) criticised Duncan this week

for proposing changes to the decades-old ERNA less than a year before the Netherlands Antilles is scheduled to be dismantled.

Eight governments in the kingdom – those of Holland, Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles and each Antillean island territory – decided early this month to dissolve the Netherlands Antilles on October 10, 2010, the anticipated 10-10-10 date which falls on a Sunday.

Kingdom governments have adjusted the date for country status for St. Maarten and Curaçao and "public entity" status for the BES islands Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba nearly half a dozen times in past four years.

Duncan said he expected the Advisory Council to finish vetting the changes in less than a month and said he hoped the legislation would reach Parliament and the members would approve it "before the end of the year." □

GDP report drives stocks higher after 4-day slide



A trader at the New York Stock Exchange. On Wall Street, stocks recently plunged to their worst loss of the month. The US government is expected to report that the recession-wracked economy has grown in the third quarter after a year of contraction following the worst financial crisis in decades.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Mario Tama)

By STEPHEN BERNARD
and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Investors heartened by news of a stronger-than-expected

economy went back into the stock market Thursday after a four-day slide.

Major stock indexes rose more than 1.5 percent in afternoon trading, including the Dow

Jones industrials, which rose about 168 points, erasing much of this week's 210-point drop.

The Commerce Department's report that gross domestic product rose at an annual rate of 3.5 percent in the third quarter reinvigorated investors who had dumped stocks in recent days on signs of a weakness in the housing market and a disappointing report on consumer confidence.

The strong GDP report weakened demand for safe-havens like Treasuries, and a drop in the dollar pushed commodity prices higher, helping to lift materials and energy stocks.

The economic growth came in ahead of the 3.3 percent rise forecast by economists polled by Thomson Reuters. The expansion in GDP was the

best in two years and broke four consecutive quarters of declines. Coming on the 80th anniversary of the stock market crash that triggered the Great Depression, it was the best indication yet that the longest recession since then has ended. Many analysts believe it may be hard to keep GDP growing, however. The economy was bolstered during the third quarter by government stimulus programs including the popular Cash for Clunkers auto rebates and tax credits for first-time home buyers. Once the government's stimulus measures run their course, analysts are worried the economic rebound might not be sustainable considering problems such as high unemployment and weak consumer spending persist.

"I don't think that at this point in the rebound that the economy would be self-sustainable," said Jason D. Pride, director of research at Haverford Investments in Philadelphia. "The only way to have effective sustained economic growth is to have job growth, but it tends to come later."

Analysts say the economic recovery is likely to be bumpy as consumers try to pay down debt and credit for small businesses remains tight. But such concerns were pushed aside on Thursday, as stocks moved toward their best one-day gain since August.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 168.15, or 1.7

percent, to 9,930.84. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 19.86, or 1.9 percent, to 1,062.49, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 34.34, or 1.7 percent, to 2,093.95.

Bond prices fell, pushing their yields higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.50 percent from 3.42 percent late Wednesday. Bonds extended their early losses after a lackluster auction of seven-year notes.

The ICE Futures US dollar index, which measures the dollar against other major currencies, fell after five straight days of gains. The weaker dollar made commodities more attractive for foreign buyers. Gold rose about \$16 to \$1,046 an ounce on the New York Mercantile Exchange, while crude oil soared \$2.48 to \$79.94 a barrel.

Mitch Schlesinger, a managing partner at FBB Capital Partners in Bethesda, Md., said that because of government support, fourth-quarter GDP should provide a better picture of how much the economy has recovered.

"Some of the artificial goosing of the numbers will come out and we'll get a better picture," Schlesinger said. He added that the economy is likely to grow in the fourth quarter, but probably not at as fast a pace as the third quarter.

In the interim, however, investors will welcome the better-than-expected third quarter report, he said. □

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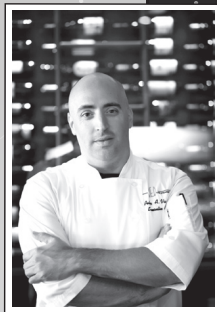
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Economy growing but recovery could be at risk

By JEANNINE AVERSA,
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Fueled by government stimulus, the economy grew last quarter for the first time in more than a year. The question now is, can the recovery last?

Federal support for spending on cars and homes drove the economy up 3.5 percent from July through September. But the government aid — from tax credits for home buyers to rebates for auto purchases — is only temporary. Consumer spending, which normally drives recoveries, is likely to weaken without it.

If shoppers retrench in the face of rising joblessness and tight credit, the fragile recovery could tip back into recession. For the Obama administration, the positive report on economic growth is a delicate one: It wants to take credit for ending the recession. On the other hand, it needs to acknowledge that rising joblessness continues to cause pain throughout the country. Millions of Americans have yet to feel a real-world benefit from the recovery in the form of job creation or an easier time getting a loan. Even those with jobs are reluctant to spend. The values of their homes and 401(k)s remain shrunken.

President Barack Obama called the report “welcome news” in remarks prepared for a small-business group but acknowledged that “we have a long way to go to fully restore our economy” and recover from the deepest business slump since the 1930s-era Great Depression.

“The benchmark I use to measure the strength of our economy is not just whether our GDP is growing, but whether we are creating jobs, whether families are having an easier time paying their bills, whether our businesses are hiring and doing well,” Obama said.

The rebound reported Thursday by the Commerce Department ended the record streak of four straight quarters of contracting economic activity.

The news lifted stocks on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrials average gained about 150 points in afternoon trading and broader indices also rose.

But whether the recovery can continue after government supports are gone is unclear. Many economists predict economic activity won't grow as much in the months ahead as the bracing impact of the government's \$787 billion package of increased

government spending and tax cuts fades.

The National Association for Business Economics thinks growth will slow to a 2.4 percent pace in the current October-December quarter. It expects a 2.5 percent growth rate in the first three months of next year, although other economists believe the pace will be closer to 1 percent.

Christina Romer, Obama's chief economist, has acknowledged that the government's stimulus spending already had its biggest impact and probably won't contribute to significant growth next year.

For the third quarter, government support proved crucial.

Armed with cash from government support programs, consumers led the rebound in the third quarter, snapping up cars and homes. A jump in spending on big-ticket manufactured goods largely reflected car purchases spurred by the government's Cash for Clunkers program.

Spending on housing last quarter was positive for the first time since the end of

2005. The government's \$8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers supported the housing rebound. Congress is considering extending the credit, which expires Nov. 30. Federal government spending rose at a rate of 7.9 percent in the third quarter, on top of a 11.4 percent growth rate in the second quarter. And businesses boosted spending on equipment and software at a 1.1 percent pace, the first increase in nearly two years. Third-quarter activity also was helped by increased sales of U.S.-made goods to customers overseas, as economies in Asia, Europe and elsewhere improved. The cheaper dollar is aiding U.S. exporters, making their goods less expensive to foreign buyers.

Exports of U.S. goods soared at an annualized rate of 21.4 percent in the third quarter, the most since the final quarter of 1996.

Businesses, meanwhile, reduced their stockpiles of goods less in the third quarter, after slashing them at a record pace in the second quarter. With inventories at



In this Oct. 27, 2009 photo, a contractor worker installs a sprinkler system that uses recycled water at the newly built SheaHomes townhouses at the Victoria Gardens development in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. The economy grew at a 3.5 percent pace in the third quarter, the best showing in two years, fueled by government-supported spending on cars and homes.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

rock-bottom levels, even the smallest increase in demand probably will prompt factories to boost production. This restocking of depleted inventories is expected to help sustain the recovery in the coming months, economists said. □

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HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Tracking how flu evolves — it has sticky tricks



A Chinese nurse prepares to insert a drip on the forehead of a boy getting treated for flu in October 2009. China has warned the country's battle against swine flu is "extremely grim" after infection levels spiked in some areas and a Beijing university student became the fourth person here to die of the virus.

(AFP/File)

By LAURAN NEERGAARD,

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Vaccinating more children might help slow the evolution of the constantly changing flu virus, government scientists reported Thursday. Influenza is a mighty mutator. Sometimes it makes big changes that result in never-before-seen strains, like this year's swine flu. But from season to season, it undergoes subtle shape-shifting, which is the reason people need a new winter flu vaccine every year. This regular shift is what's called antigenic drift. Think of influenza as wearing a coat, a protein on the virus' surface — the "H" in the family flu names, for hemagglutinin — that is the major factor in triggering the immune system to mount an attack. Slight changes in the appearance of that coat can be enough to confuse your immune system and allow infection. But just how do those changes happen? National Institutes of Health researchers infected lots of mice — vaccinated and unvaccinated ones — to watch that evolution in action. They report in the journal *Science* that influenza responds to immune pressure, a discovery that supports today's vaccine policy urging more children to get their flu shots each fall. Even a vaccine that isn't a perfect match to the virus may provide some protection and limit the scope of changes in the virus.

"We're giving the virus more wiggle room, more evolutionary space, by having some naive individuals," explained lead researcher Dr. Jonathan Yewdell of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. To scientists, "naive" means the previously unexposed.

Yewdell's team took an old strain of seasonal H1N1

flu that circulated decades ago and infected groups of mice. After each infection, they culled virus from mouse lungs and used that to infect more sets of mice. After nine such cycles, they checked the hemagglutinin gene for mutations. Unvaccinated mice had none. In vaccinated mice, the virus had mutated to become stickier — it changed the way it binds to cells to clamp on more tightly, which helps it evade an attack from immune cells called antibodies. But that's a big tradeoff: A stickier virus doesn't spread as easily, Yewdell said.

Then the team took the new sticky mutant and infected more unvaccinated mice with it — and here's the surprise: The virus mutated back into a less sticky, easier-to-spread version.

That's why there are implications for people, because children who haven't yet caught or been vaccinated against many flu strains would offer a similar opportunity for mutation to easier-to-spread versions.

"We want to box flu in as much as we can," Yewdell said. "With more antibody pressure (from vaccinated people), it's got to bind tighter and the virus is not so happy."

In a separate study published in *Science*, a team led by University of Georgia researchers examined ponies vaccinated against equine influenza to determine how much antigenic drift it takes to outwit a particular year's flu vaccine. It's a model that scientists might use to track a worsening outbreak. But the take-home message — if enough of a population is vaccinated, even an imperfect vaccine can provide some benefit — is potentially useful information the next time a worrisome new strain crops up. □

Study: Cholesterol drugs may improve flu survival

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE,

AP Medical Writer

A new treatment for swine flu may already be on pharmacy shelves — cholesterol-lowering statin drugs like Lipitor and Zocor.

A large study found that people who were taking these drugs when they caught seasonal flu and had to be hospitalized were twice as likely to survive than those who were not on such medicines.

This doesn't prove that statins can cure flu, or that starting on them after catching the flu would help. A federal study is under way now to test that. Doctors are optimistic, because previous studies also found that statins may improve survival from infectious diseases.

"It's very promising," said the new study's leader, Dr. Ann Thomas of the Oregon Public Health Division. Results were discussed Thursday at an

Infectious Diseases Society of America conference in Philadelphia.

"It's intriguing and exciting," and the benefit seen from statins is "substantial," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University doctor whose hospital in Nashville, Tenn., was involved in the research.

"There are relatively few downsides to trying statins," which are cheap, relatively safe, and already among the most widely used medicines in the world, he said.

Treatment is a crucial issue for swine flu because vaccine is slow to reach the public, and flu medicines like Tamiflu are being reserved for only the sickest patients.

Statin have long been known to reduce inflammation along with cholesterol. Much of the damage that flu causes, whether it's seasonal or the new H1N1 virus, is from inflammation and an overreaction by the immune system as

it fights the virus.

Earlier studies found that statins improved survival from pneumonia and serious bacterial bloodstream infections. The new research, sponsored by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is the first large one in the United States to look at statins for flu.

It involved 2,800 people hospitalized with lab-confirmed seasonal flu in 10 states in 2007-2008. Medical records show that 801 received statins in the hospital. They probably were just continuing the cholesterol treatment they had been taking before catching the flu, though researchers don't know this for sure.

More than 3 percent of those not taking statins died in the hospital or in the following month. The rate was half that among statin users, even though they were more likely to have underlying health problems like heart

disease. Researchers took other factors such as age into account and still saw the same benefit from statin use.

"It's an important study," said Dr. Andrew Pavia, a pediatrics professor at the University of Utah and head of the infectious disease society's pandemic flu task force. He said he now places a high priority on testing statins as a treatment.

"It gives us a pretty cost-effective tool if it works," he said.

There might be justification for trying these drugs now in certain patients not doing well on any other treatment, said Dr. Ronald Turner of the University of Virginia, a prominent virologist who had no role in the new study.

"If you get yourself to the point where you don't have anything to offer and things are going poorly for the patient, then maybe to try something on a speculative note is appropriate," he said. □

Sting: Obama best person to handle world's 'mess'



Recording artist Sting is photographed in New York on Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009.

(AP Photo/Jim Cooper)

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY,
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK – Sting isn't a religious man, but he says President Barack Obama might be a divine answer to the world's problems.

"In many ways, he's sent from God," he joked in an interview, "because the world's a mess." But Sting is serious in his belief that Obama is the best leader to navigate the world's problems. In an interview on Wednesday, the former Police frontman said that he spent some time with Obama and "found him to be very

genuine, very present, clearly super-smart, and exactly what we need in the world."

"I can't think of anyone better qualified because of his background, his education, particularly in regard to Islam," he said.

Still, Sting acknowledged the president had a "difficult job" ahead of him.

The British singer, who released the seasonal album "On A Winter's Night" this week, said he's fascinated by American politics, Obama, and also by Obama's opponents on the right.

"It's aggressive and violent and full of fear," he said of the backlash against Obama. "They don't want change, they want things to feel the same because they feel safe there."

Sting, 58, said he's hopeful that the world's problems can be dealt with, but is frustrated that "we seem to be living in a currency of medieval ideas."

"My hope is that we can start talking about real issues and not caring about whether God cares about your hemline or your color," he said. "We are here to evolve as one family, and we can't be separate anymore." □

Nicolas Cage's father, August Coppola, dead at 75

LOS ANGELES – Nicolas Cage's father, literature professor August Coppola, has died. He was 75.

Coppola is the brother of filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola, and he taught literature and served as dean of creative arts at San Francisco State University.

Cage spokeswoman Annett Wolf said he died Tuesday after a heart attack.

Besides Cage, Coppola is survived by sons Christopher and Marc and three grandchildren. □

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Could Michael Jackson's 'This Is It' win an Oscar?

By SANDY COHEN,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — “Michael Jackson’s ‘This Is It’ comes too late in the year to be considered for a 2009 documentary Oscar, but the film about the late King of Pop’s preparations for a series of comeback concerts could qualify for other Hollywood honors this year, including the Academy Award for best picture. The film, which opened around the globe Tuesday and Wednesday has already earned rousing praise from fans and critics, who say it restores Jackson’s reputation as a world-class entertainer. It already tops the box office with \$20.1 million worldwide after just one full day in theaters.

Director Kenny Ortega, a longtime Jackson collaborator who was overseeing his London concert comeback, crafted the nearly two-hour film from more than 100 hours of footage recorded during rehearsals for the London shows, which were to have begun in July. Jackson died June 25 at age 50.

“What we did here was focus on telling a good story and

creating a film for the fans really enabling them to understand what Michael Jackson had dreamed for them,” Ortega said Wednesday.

He added it was his hope “the audience for this film will grow and that as many people come to see it as possible because I think that it’s a wonderful story about a brilliant man. ... Awards, Oscars, that’s all great wishful thinking.”

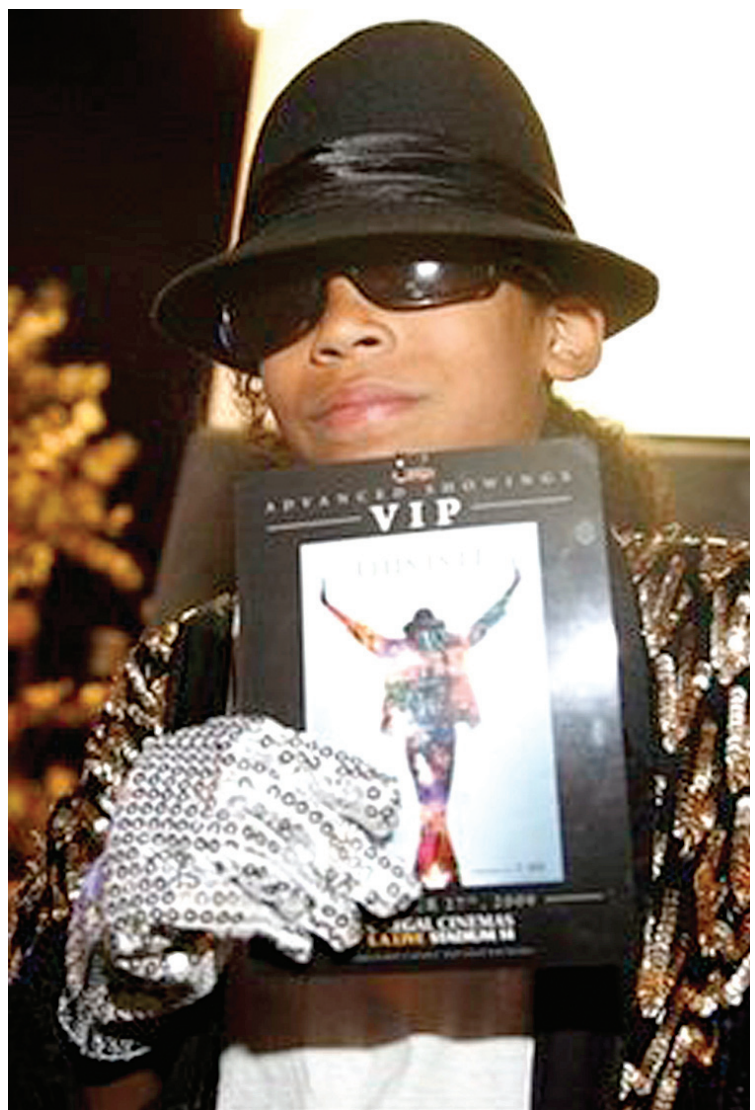
It may be more than wishful, said Steven Gaydos, executive editor of the Hollywood trade paper Variety and a self-described cynic. With the Academy Awards best-picture slate expanded to 10 films this year rather than the traditional five, “‘This Is It’ could find itself among the contenders, he said. To qualify, the film must complete a seven-day run in Los Angeles County and filmmakers would need to “submit the proper paperwork,” said Leslie Unger, spokeswoman for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which puts on the Oscars. The movie could also be considered in other categories, she said, including sound and film editing.

Sony, which paid \$60 million for the global film rights, plans to keep “‘This Is It’ in theaters for just over two weeks. The studio has not said whether it plans to submit the film in any of the Oscar categories.

Ortega, a veteran director, producer and choreographer who counts TV’s “High School Musical” among his credits, could also find himself in contention for a best-director nod, Gaydos said.

“He did a masterful job putting this whole thing together,” he said. “It was so powerful and interesting, so creative and well-done, I think he should be considered... Kenny just won over all these critics like me with Michael Jackson that anything interesting could go on with this guy.”

The film can’t be considered for a Golden Globe. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which puts on the annual ceremony, doesn’t permit feature documentaries to enter, said spokesman Michael Russell. Ortega said an Oscar nod would be a fitting recognition of Jackson’s last work. “He deserves one,” he said. “Come on people.” □



Fan Miguel Cervantes, 10, of Los Angeles holds up his pass for the opening of the ‘Michael Jackson THIS IS IT’ movie at Regal Cinemas L.A. LIVE Stadium 14 in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009.

(AP Photo/Jason Redmond)

‘Slumdog’ kids’ truancy threatens their trust fund

By ERIKA KINETZ,
Associated Press Writer

MUMBAI, India — The two child stars of “Slumdog Millionaire” are at risk of losing their monthly stipend and their trust fund if they don’t attend school more regularly, a trustee for the fund said Thursday.

Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, 11, and Rubina Ali, 10, shot to fame after starring in the Oscar-winning movie.

Azhar played the hero’s brother, Salim, while Rubina was cast as the young Latika, who grows up to become his love interest.

But these days, Azhar is only showing up at school 37 percent of the time, and Rubina has only a 27 percent attendance rate, the trustee said.

“It’s pathetic,” said Noshir Dadrawala, who helps administer the Jai Ho trust established by the filmmakers to provide an education, living

allowance and housing for the young stars, who both grew up in Mumbai’s real-life shantytowns.

Dadrawala blamed the children’s busy schedule for their chronic truancy.

“They are constantly going to Paris and Cochin and Chennai,” he said. “That’s fine, but go over the weekend, not at the sacrifice of school.” The children’s parents said the absences were due to deaths in the family and other problems and promised to get them to school from now on.

“Slumdog” director Danny Boyle and producer Christian Colson said in a statement that the children’s families “need to honor their part of the bargain.”

“We are disappointed that Azhar and Rubina’s school attendance remains patchy. We have urged both families to honor their commitment to ensure regular school attendance,” they said. The

filmmakers were in Mumbai to discuss future film projects and charity work.

Dadrawala said the trust decided that if the children do not get their attendance above 70 percent they will lose their monthly stipend of about \$120. If they fail to graduate, they will forfeit a lump sum payment set aside by the filmmakers to help the children, who grew up in one of Mumbai’s more wretched slums, get a start in life.

The filmmakers have declined to reveal the amount in the trust for fear of exposing the families to exploitation.

Azhar’s mother, Shameen Ismail, said her son had been truant over the past two months because he was inconsolable after his father died in September from tuberculosis. “He would cry often, so I kept him home from school for a while,” she said.

She promised his attendance would improve.



New York-based Lebanese body builder George Farah, center, poses with ‘Slumdog Millionaire’ child stars Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail, right, and Rubina Ali when they happen to meet at a hotel in Mumbai, India, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009. A trustee for the child stars of ‘Slumdog Millionaire’ says the kids’ poor attendance at school is putting their trust fund at risk. The filmmakers set up the trust to provide an education, housing and a living allowance to the young stars of the Oscar winning film.

(AP Photo/Rafiq Maqbool)

“As long as I’m alive, I will make sure my son gets an education,” she said.

Rubina’s father, Rafiq Qureshi, said the girl was not in school because her slum shanty was destroyed and she was cut on the leg by a piece of glass.

“It will not happen next time,” he said.

In July, Azhar moved out of a metal shack in the slums and into a \$50,000 one-bedroom apartment that the filmmakers bought for his family in Mumbai. □

House leader presents new health care bill

ERICA WERNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

After months of struggle, House Democrats unveiled sweeping legislation Thursday to extend health care coverage to millions of Americans who lack it and create a new option of government-run insurance. A vote is likely next week on the plan patterned closely on President Barack Obama's own.

Speaking on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, said Congress was "on the cusp of delivering on the promise of making affordable, quality health insurance available to every American — and laying the foundation for a brighter future for generations to come."

But while the legislation is likely to pass in the House, where Democrats have a majority, it faces much greater difficulty in the Senate where debate could take weeks and the outcome is uncertain. Even if the Senate approves a bill, negotiations to reconcile its measure with the House one could drag on, delaying Obama's expected signature of the law.

Obama has made health care legislation the top priority of his first year in office. The United States is the only developed nation that does not have a comprehensive national health care plan for all its citizens.

An estimated 50 million Americans do not have health insurance.

If Obama does get to sign a health overhaul bill, he will have bucked decades of failed attempts by past administrations, most recently by former President Bill Clinton in the 1990s.



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. speaks at a health care news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009.

Associates Press

There is still no guarantee that Congress can complete the legislation before year's end, as the president wants. Officials said the House measure, once fully phased in over several years, would extend coverage to 96 percent of Americans.

Its principal mechanism is creation of a new government-regulated insurance "exchange" where private companies could sell policies in competition with the government. Federal subsidies would be available to millions of lower-income individuals and families to help them

afford the policies.

The House ceremony marked a pivotal moment in Democrats' yearlong attempt to answer Obama's call for legislation to remake the health care system by extending insurance, ending industry practices such as denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions, and slowing the growth of medical spending nationwide.

Democrats issued a statement saying their measure "lowers costs for every patient" and would not add to federal deficits.

Continued on Next Page

Police seek shooter who wounded two at L.A. synagogue



Synagogue parishioners huddle at the scene in Los Angeles where a gunman shot and wounded two men in the parking garage of a North Hollywood synagogue early Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009. Jewish schools and temples were put on alert in case it was not a lone attack, authorities said.

Associated Press

SOLVEJ SCHOU

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A gunman shot and wounded two men in the parking garage of a North Hollywood synagogue Thursday, frightening worshippers who heard gunshots and screams before the bleeding victims stumbled in during morning services.

Continued on Page B5



The passport of Spanish citizen Raquel Burgos Garcia recovered during military operations against Taliban militants is displayed by Pakistani forces at Sherwangi Tor village in South Waziristan, on Thursday Oct 29, 2009. The authenticity of the documents could not be verified. Garcia Burgos, whose family in Madrid has no news of her since 2001, according to Spanish press, is the wife of Amer Azizi, a Moroccan who lived in Spain and is sought by justice for his alleged involvement in al-Queda linked terrorist attacks.

Associated Press

Passports linked to 9/11 found along Afghan border

Read Page B8



House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, second from left, speaks behind a copy of the Democrat's version of the health care bill during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009. From left are, House Minority Whip Eric Cantor of Va., Boehner, Rep, Mike Pence, R-Ind., and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash.

Associated Press

HEALTH CARE BILL

Continued from Page B1

They put the cost of coverage at under \$900 billion over 10 years, a total that evidently did not include additional spending.

Pelosi was flanked by rank-and-file Democrats as she made her remarks.

Across the Capitol, Senate Democrats, too, are hoping to pass legislation by year's end. Legislation outlined by Majority Leader Harry Reid earlier this week would include an option for a government-run plan, although states could drop out if they wished, a provision not in the House measure. Some states already have their own health care systems.

With Republicans expected to oppose the measure unanimously, Pelosi and her lieutenants in the House worked for weeks to resolve differences within the Democratic rank and file.

The toughest of them covered the terms under which the government insurance option would function. Liberals generally wanted the government to dictate the rates to be paid to doctors, hospitals and other health care providers, with the fee levels linked to Medicare, the government-run health care plan for the elderly.

Moderates, fearing the impact on their local hospitals, held out for negotiated rates between the government and private insurers — and won.

Democrats control 256 seats in the House, are overwhelmingly favored to win one special election next week and are competitive for another. As a result, they can afford 30 defections or more on the legislation and still prevail. □

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Officials investigating US Islamic group's motives

ED WHITE,
Associated Press Writer
DETROIT (AP) — The FBI is trying to determine whether members of a radical Detroit-area Islamic group were homegrown jihadists or merely a “bunch of thugs with bluster,” a congressman said Thursday. One thing is certain: They are not mainstream Muslims, the agency said.

Lqman Ameen Abdullah skimmed 20 percent of the profit off the furs, electronics and other items his followers fenced, and he preached that it was OK for them to steal as long as they prayed, FBI agent Gary Leone wrote in an affidavit filed with a criminal complaint against 11 group members.

Abdullah, 53, was killed Wednesday in a shootout with agents after the FBI raided a suburban warehouse the group used. Eight members, including Abdullah's son, have been arrested and authorities were seeking the public's help in capturing the other two. The group members are charged with various federal crimes, chiefly conspiracy to sell stolen goods.

The FBI says Abdullah, also known as Christopher Thomas, was an imam of a local faction of Ummah, a group that seeks to establish an Islamic state within the United States. Authorities say Abdullah preached hate for the government and encouraged his followers to commit violence, especially against

police and federal agents.

According to the affidavit, Abdullah told a confidential FBI source that if the government messed with him, “it will be straight up war.”

Andrew Arena, the head of the FBI's Detroit office, stressed Thursday that Abdullah's mosque, Masjid Al-Haqq, was in no way representative of the Detroit area's large Muslim community.

“This is a very hybrid radical ideology. I don't know that I'd call it a religion,” Arena said. Among Arab-Americans, there's a fear “this is going to be portrayed as another al-Qaida sleeper cell in the United States and this is going to bring unwanted attention. ... That's certainly not the way we feel,” Arena said.

The government has not charged Abdullah's followers with terrorism-related charges, and Arena and U.S. Attorney Terrence Berg declined to comment about whether they planned to do so. A criminal complaint is a temporary charge that typically is followed by an indictment.

Berg said Abdullah's group's anti-government beliefs motivated them to commit crimes, but he declined to elaborate.

Rep. Peter Hoekstra of Michigan, the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, said he talked to FBI Director Robert Mueller and was told the agency was trying to determine if the men were a “bunch of thugs

with bluster” or possible homegrown jihadists.

Ummah is a movement with no apparent central religious authority, so it's difficult to say what the group's factions teach in their mosques.

In Warren, a Detroit suburb, local imams met privately with Arena and Berg to discuss the arrests. They were joined by Imam Mutawaf Shaheed of Cleveland, who identified himself as a representative of Ummah. He said the mission is to “spread charity, good faith and understanding about Islam” — not overthrow the government.

The FBI said at least five of the 11 people charged by the government have felony convictions, including Abdullah, who was convicted of assault and carrying a



U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of Michigan Terrence Berg, left, and Andrew Arena, FBI Special Agent in Charge address the media in Detroit, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009. FBI officials were trying to determine Thursday whether an imam killed during a shootout with agents and several of his followers accused of selling stolen goods and illegally possessing and selling firearms are homegrown jihadists or a “bunch of thugs with bluster.”

Associated Press

concealed weapon in Detroit Wednesday at A.L. Holmes Elementary School in Detroit, in 1981.

Gary Porter, 59, was arrested where he teaches gym. □

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Obama honors fallen Americans

BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Delaware (AP) — Standing in the pre-dawn darkness, President Barack Obama saw the real cost of the war in Afghanistan: The Americans who return in flag-covered cases while much of the nation sleeps in peace.

In a surprise midnight dash to this Delaware base where U.S. forces killed overseas come home, Obama honored the return on Thursday of 18 fallen Americans. All were killed in Afghanistan this week, a brutal stretch that turned October into the most deadly month for U.S. troops since the war began.

“It was a sobering reminder of the extraordinary sacrifices that our young men and women in uniform are engaging in every single day, not only our troops but their families as well,” Obama said later, hours after his return to the White House. “The burden that both our troops and their families bear in any wartime situation is going to bear on how I see these conflicts, and it is something that I think about each and every day.”

The dramatic image of a president on the tarmac was



President Barack Obama, right, salutes as an Army carry team carries the transfer case containing the remains of Sgt. Dale R. Griffin of Terre Haute, Ind., during a dignified transfer event at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009.

a portrait not witnessed in years.

Former President George W. Bush said the appropriate way to show his respect for war's cost was to meet with grieving military families in private, as he often did, but he never went to Dover to observe the remains coming off the cargo plane. Obama did so with the weight of knowing he may

soon send more troops off to war.

For all the talk of his potential troop increase — maybe 40,000, maybe some other large figure — Obama got a grim reminder of the number that counts: one.

His name was Dale R. Griffin, an Army sergeant from Terre Haute, Indiana. He was the last fallen soldier to come before

Associated Press
Obama. And his remains were the only ones of the 18 to be honored in full view of the media. An 18-year ban on such coverage, dating to the 1991 Gulf War and strengthened by Bush, was relaxed this year under Obama's watch, allowing families to decide whether cameras can document the return. Nearly two-thirds have said yes. In this case, 11

of the 17 families had already reached a decision against coverage before they were notified that Obama would be there, said White House press secretary Robert Gibbs.

The president led a team of officials onto the gray C-17 cargo plane carrying Griffin, and then back off, where they stood for several minutes in a line of honor. It was not quite 4 a.m. The sky was black and a yellowish light came from poles flanking the flight. The only sounds were a whirring power unit on the plane and the clicking of cameras. A blue vehicle carrying members of Griffin's family pulled up.

The president then saluted as six soldiers in camouflage and black berets carried Griffin's remains down the ramp and into a waiting white van.

Griffin was a top wrestler in high school and in college at Virginia Military Institute, remembered Thursday by friends and a former coach as particularly strong. Vigo County (Indiana) Judge Chris Newton, a family friend, described him as “unbelievably tough and resilient.”

On a clear fall night, the president had traveled to Dover on a 40-minute helicopter ride from the White House. He immediately sat down privately with all the family members in a base chapel.

The solemn process of transferring remains of 15 soldiers and three Drug Enforcement Administration agents unfolded in four separate movements. Obama took part in all of them. A chaplain offered prayers for the fallen, the crews that brought them home, the families who lost a loved one, and a nation embroiled in war.

The military calls the process a dignified transfer, not a ceremony, because there is nothing to celebrate. The cases are not labeled coffins, although they come off looking that way, enveloped in flags. By 4:45 a.m., the president had touched back down on the South Lawn, where a usually active White House was sleepy. He walked inside, alone. □

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L.A. SYNAGOGUE

Continued from Page B1

Authorities initially put Jewish schools and temples on alert before saying the attack appeared to be isolated.

Police detained a 17-year-old high school student near the temple because he matched a "very loose" description of the attacker, who was described as a black man wearing a hoodie, Deputy Police Chief Michel Moore said. They later released the youth and said he is no longer a suspect.

Mori Ben-Nissan, 38, and Allen Lasry, 53, were shot in the legs in the parking garage underneath the Adat Yeshurun Valley Sephardic Orthodox synagogue in the San Fernando Valley, said police Detective Steve Castro.

The men, both synagogue members, arrived in separate cars for the morning service shortly before 6:30 a.m. and were in a stairwell leading up to the synagogue sanctuary when the gunman shot them

several times, police said.

The victims, who were hospitalized in good condition, told police the attacker did not speak, Moore said.

One worshipper, Yehuda Oz, said he and about 14 others were praying in the temple when they heard four gunshots and screams from the parking area.

Two men stumbled into the temple, Oz said, and people rushed to stop their bleeding.

No one saw the attacker, he said.

"Maybe it was crazy person," Yehuda told the Los Angeles Times. "Maybe he was drugged up. Maybe it was a Jew. We don't know."

Even as investigators tried to find a motive, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other officials moved to calm fears that the attack was part of any organized anti-Semitic violence.

"We certainly recognize the location and we're sensitive to that," Moore said. "But we do not know that this



Rabbi Abraham Cooper from the Weisenthal Center, right, is shown with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, speaking during a news conference regarding the synagogue shooting that left two men wounded Thursday Oct. 29, 2009 in Los Angeles.

was a hate crime at all."

Police searched the area for several hours but found no one. An alert that sent extra police patrols to local Jewish schools and synagogues was called off.

Initial security camera footage from the synagogue shows the suspect but not the shooting, and the quality is too poor for investigators

to identify the man, Cmdr. Jorge Villegas said.

But Castro said detectives later found more security cameras at the synagogue and were reviewing those tapes for possible clues.

Castro said information showed different scenarios for a possible motive, including a personal business dispute.

Associated Press

The attack occurred 10 miles from a Jewish community center where white supremacist Buford Furrow wounded three children, a teenager and an adult, in 1999.

Furrow later killed a Filipino letter carrier on another street, and is serving a life sentence without chance of parole.



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EU leaders agree on Czech treaty demands



CONSTANT BRAND
Associated Press Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's stalled reform treaty overcame a crucial hurdle Thursday after EU leaders agreed to last-minute demands from the Czech Republic in return for the country's ratification of the ambitious deal. The treaty would streamline decision-

making and bolster the bloc's role on the world stage. It would also create the post of a fixed EU president, a job leading European figures are already jockeying for behind the scenes. European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said the eight years of drafting and negotiating the treaty "reminds me of a marathon, but a marathon with hurdles."

"Tonight we have removed the last political hurdle," he said.

Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt, who led the summit talks, said EU leaders here agreed to demands that clear the way for Czech President Vaclav Klaus to sign the treaty if the Czech constitutional court finds the pact does not violate national law. The court is expected to rule Tuesday.

Czech Prime Minister Jan Fischer said the deal was "a step forward" and assured his counterparts that if the court backs the treaty "there is nothing preventing a rapid finalization of the ratification of the treaty in the Czech Republic" before the end of the year.

Jiri Weigl, head of Klaus' office said the president "considered the result very good," adding Klaus would not raise any more concerns over the treaty.

Klaus, an ardent Euro-skeptic, had refused to sign the treaty until his country was offered an opt-out

from its Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Czech leader asked for the option over worries of property claims by ethnic Germans stripped of their land and expelled after World War II.

Reinfeldt said neighboring countries — like Hungary and Slovakia, both of which also feared repercussions over Klaus' demands — agreed to a compromise text that allowed the opt-out.

Klaus had used the demand for the opt-out to try to scuttle ratification of the treaty which he opposes. He fears the treaty would hand over too many national powers to EU institutions in Brussels. However, pressure on him to sign intensified after he became the lone holdout when Irish voters passed the treaty in a second referendum earlier this month.

EU officials have said that the World War II laws Klaus is concerned about are in no way threatened by the new treaty's rights charter which only applies to EU laws. □



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	daily:	6:00	8:30		
	matinee:	1:00	3:30	late show:	11:00
PG-13	KNOWING				NEW
	daily:	6:00	8:45		
	matinee:			late show:	11:30
PG	CIRQUE DU FREAK				NEW
	daily:	6:00	8:30		
	matinee:	1:00	3:30	late show:	11:00
PG	FAME				
	daily:	5:00			
	matinee:	12:00	2:30	late show:	
R	THE PRIVATE LIVE OF PIPPA LEE				
	daily:	7:30	9:45		
	matinee:				12:00
PG	TOY STORY 2 3D				3D
	daily:	4:00			
	matinee:	12:00	2:00	late show:	
PG	HET GEHEIM VAN MEGA MINDY				
	daily:	4:30	6:15	8:15	10:00
	matinee:	12:30	2:30	late show:	12:00
R	THE STEPFATHER				
	daily:	6:15	8:30		
	matinee:	1:15	3:45	late show:	11:00

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG	THIS IS IT MICHAEL JACKSON				NEW
	daily:	5:45	8:15		
	matinee:	12:45	3:15	late show:	11:00
PG	ASTRO BOY				NEW
	daily:	4:30	6:45		
	matinee:	12:00	2:15	late show:	
PG	TOY STORY 2 3D				3D
	daily:	4:15	6:15		
	matinee:	12:15	2:15	late show:	
R	LAW ABIDING CITIZEN				
	daily:	6:00	8:15		
	matinee:	12:30	3:15	late show:	11:30
R	ZOMBIELAND				
	daily:	8:15	10:15		
	matinee:			late show:	12:30
PG-13	SURROGATES				
	daily:	9:00			
	matinee:			late show:	11:30
PG-13	THE STEPFATHER				
	daily:	6:00	8:30		
	matinee:	12:45	3:15	late show:	11:00
PG-13	COUPLES RETREAT				
	daily:	5:00	7:30	10:00	
	matinee:	12:00	2:30	late show:	12:15

Iran lauds nuke 'cooperation' — but hedges on deal

GEORGE JAHN

Associated Press Writer

VIENNA (AP) — Iran's president pledged Thursday to work with the West to resolve a standoff over its nuclear program even as his country reportedly balked at a U.S.-backed deal to limit its uranium enrichment and curb its ability to make a nuclear warhead.

A Western diplomat said Iran rejected a plan to export most of its enriched uranium, offering instead to enrich it to a higher level inside the country under U.N. supervision.

The disconnect between the words of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Tehran's decision, as related by the diplomat, reflected the difficulties facing international negotiators trying to persuade Iran to give up enrichment.

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, whose country holds told the European Union's rotating presidency, was dismissive after seeing the offer.

"It's the same old tricks," he told the AP: "A back-and-forth for further talks."

Iran was considering a plan proposed last week by International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBaradei at talks involving Iran, the U.S., Russia and France. A negotiator told The Associated Press that the draft would commit Iran to delivering 70 percent of its low-enriched uranium to Russia in one shipment for further enrichment and conversion into fuel for a Tehran research reactor.

Sending that amount in one batch would leave Tehran without enough material to make weapons-grade uranium should it decide to make a warhead. Experts say Iran would need at least a year to produce enough to make up for the exported material, giving the international community a window of opportunity to persuade the Islamic Republic to freeze its enrichment program.

According to the Western diplomat familiar with the reply, the Islamic Republic rejected the main thrust of the offer — shipping out most



U.N. nuclear inspectors, headed by Herman Nackaerts, second left, arrive at Vienna's Schwechat airport, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009. U.N. nuclear inspectors have returned from an inspection of a previously secret Iranian uranium enrichment site.

of its stockpile — and was instead proposing to further enrich it inside Iran under IAEA supervision.

If it was enriched domestically to a higher level — as the diplomat said it wants to — that could speed up its ability to make weapons-grade uranium.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog gave few details aside from saying Iran had provided an "initial response" to the draft. State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said the U.S. needs "further clarification and I think it's also fair to say that we need a formal response from Iran."

On Thursday, the state-run newspaper Iran cited lawmakers as saying Tehran was seeking significant changes in the plan; sending the low-enriched uranium gradually rather than all in one shipment, each batch handed over only after Iran receives a delivery of reactor-ready fuel rods.

Other state media also have raised the prospect of a gradual handover, of shipping out a smaller amount of uranium than outlined in the U.N. plan — or of not shipping any at all and buying what the country requires from abroad.

None of those approaches would be acceptable to the West because they all would leave Iran with enough

material to produce a nuclear weapon.

The Tehran research reactor needs fuel enriched to just under 20 percent — far from the 90 percent and above needed to make a nuclear weapon. Iran's stockpile is low-enriched uranium enriched to just above 3 percent, suitable only for nuclear fuel.

But the higher the level of enrichment, the easier it is to further enrich to weapons-grade. Thus, the proposal outlined by the diplomat — further enrichment by Iran of its present stock — is unlikely to be endorsed by the U.S. and its allies.

"They don't want the LEU

Associated Press taken out," said the diplomat, referring to low-enriched uranium. "They want to enrich it there (in Iran) under IAEA supervision."

The diplomat also suggested the Iranians were eager for further one-on-one talks with the U.S. after Washington this month broke with nearly three decades of policy of not negotiating formally and directly with Tehran.

"They want the U.S. at the table to talk about how (the Americans) might be able to provide physical support for their (research) reactor to ensure there are no accidents," said the diplomat.

In a possible allusion to the

Iranian wish to draw in the Americans, Ahmadinejad insisted his country and the West were working more closely on nuclear cooperation than ever before.

"Today we reached a very important point," Ahmadinejad told a huge crowd in the northeastern shrine city of Mashhad. "Ground has been paved for nuclear cooperation."

But he again insisted his government "will not retreat even an iota" over Iran's right to pursue enrichment — despite three sets of U.N. Security Council sanctions for its refusal to freeze the program.

Since its clandestine enrichment program was revealed seven years ago, Iran has amassed about 3,300 pounds of low-enriched uranium at its cavernous underground facility at Natanz — Tehran's only known enrichment operation until it divulged late last month that it secretly was building another plant.

The plan as is would commit Iran to turn over more than 2,600 pounds (1,200 kilograms) of low-enriched uranium — more than the commonly accepted amount needed to produce weapons-grade material.

Tehran insists it is enriching only to create fuel for a future nuclear reactor network and notes its activities at Natanz are being monitored by the IAEA. □



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Passports linked to 9/11 found along Afghan border



NAHAL TOOSI,

Associated Press Writer

SHERWANGAI, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani soldiers battling their way into a Taliban stronghold along the Afghan border have seized passports that may be linked to 9/11 suspects, as they confront an enemy skilled in operating in a mountainous terrain with endless ways to wage a guerrilla war.

The military on Thursday took foreign and local journalists for a first look inside the largely lawless territory since it launched a ground offensive here in mid-October. The U.S.-backed operation is focused on a section of the tribal region where the Pakistani Taliban are based and are believed to shelter al-Qaida.

Soldiers displayed passports

seized in the operation, among them a German document belonging to a man named Said Bahaji. That matches the name of a man thought to have been a member of the Hamburg cell that conceived the 9/11 attacks. Bahaji is believed to have fled Germany shortly before the attacks in New York and Washington.

The passport included a tourist visa for Pakistan and a stamp indicating he'd arrived in the southern city of Karachi on Sept. 4, 2001.

Another passport, from Spain, bears the name of Raquel Burgos Garcia. Spanish media have reported that a woman with the same name is married to Amer Azizi, an alleged al-Qaida member from Morocco suspected in both the 9/11 attacks and the Madrid train

bombings in 2004.

Her family in Madrid has had no news of her since 2001, according to Spanish media. Her passport included visas to India and Iran, and the army displayed a Moroccan document with Burgos Garcia's photo and other information.

It was impossible to determine whether the passports are genuine, and German and Spanish officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, the army's chief spokesman, said he had not realized the passports matched any prominent names, and declined further comment other than to say European militants were sprinkled throughout the area. The U.S. has maintained for years that South Waziristan and other parts of the rugged frontier have sheltered Osama bin Laden and his senior lieutenants.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, visiting this country on Thursday, said Pakistan squandered opportunities over the years to kill or capture al-Qaida leaders responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks.

"I find it hard to believe that

nobody in your government knows where they are and couldn't get them if they really wanted to," Clinton said in an interview with Pakistani journalists in Lahore. "Maybe that's the case. Maybe they're not gettable. I don't know."

Although the military spent months using airstrikes to soften up targets in South Waziristan, nearly two weeks into the ground offensive it has captured only a few areas, none with significant strategic value. The army has seized weapons but is still trying to secure the main roads and regularly comes under rocket fire. "It's a long-drawn haul," Abbas said. "They are offering resistance, and we are also striking them hard."

Pakistan's tribal belt, a semiautonomous stretch of land where the government has long had little influence, is usually off-limits to foreigners. In recent years, as the militants' influence has spread, even many Pakistanis dare not venture here.

The tribal regions are some of the poorest, most underdeveloped areas in the world and have long been guided by traditional codes and councils. The Taliban have slaughtered hundreds of tribal

elders in their rise to power.

In Sherwangai, a sparsely populated district along one of the offensive's three major fronts, army commanders said they had killed 82 insurgents and lost six soldiers in their attempt to secure the area, where the hills are covered in brush, rocks and dust and strong winds whip high ridges. Many battle-hardened Uzbek militants are believed to have taken shelter here.

The military is slowly capturing isolated hamlets as it encircles the small town of Kaniguram, its next target in the push forward. But even where the army has taken control, much of the area remains dangerous, filled with land mines and roadside bombs.

After an initial surge of resistance, many militants have been fleeing. Because the army has sealed off the main passes, "they will not be able to go out in a major way," said Maj. Gen. Khalid Rabbani, a top battlefield commander.

Yet, he added, "If somebody chooses even to cross Mount Everest, he will be able to do it. So there are going to be a few, changing their disguise — taking care of their beards and long hair — they will be able to get out." □



U.N. torture investigator Manfred Nowak speaks during a media conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, Thursday Oct. 29, 2009. Nowak, was barred from Zimbabwe and returned to South Africa after a night in the airport, the angry envoy said Thursday, calling his treatment "alarming" evidence of the split in the southern African country's coalition government.

Associated Press

Zimbabwe blocks UN investigator visit to country

DONNA BRYSON,

Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — An outraged U.N. torture investigator said he believes Zimbabwe's president may be the reason he was blocked from the country, a move that could further isolate the struggling nation and its fragile coalition government.

Manfred Nowak had planned to investigate alleged attacks on Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's supporters by militants linked to President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party. Mugabe, who has been in power for nearly three decades, is accused of trampling on human rights and democracy, and holding the international community in contempt.

"There are certainly some parts of the government who do not want me to assess the current conditions of torture," Nowak told reporters Thursday in Johannesburg upon arrival from Zimbabwe.

"There are strong indications that this was not just done by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs without at least the knowledge or

instruction by President Mugabe," Nowak said later at a news conference.

Ephraim Masawi, a spokesman for Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, said angrily that allegations Mugabe was involved in barring Nowak were "not true."

Nowak said he had a meeting scheduled Thursday with Tsvangirai, even though other Zimbabwean officials had told him he was not welcome. Tsvangirai, a longtime opposition leader, joined the government with Mugabe in February, but withdrew temporarily from Cabinet earlier this month after accusing Mugabe's party of human rights violations.

Nowak called his treatment a "serious diplomatic incident" as well as alarming evidence of the split in the coalition that Tsvangirai has called the only way to rescue Zimbabwe from economic ruin and violent political impasse. Nowak said the coalition could fail, which would mean new balloting in a country with a history of election violence blamed on Mugabe's supporters.

Jean Ziegler, who advises the United

Nations on human rights issues, said the U.N. Secretary-General could — and should — ask U.N. aid and development agencies to curtail cooperation with Zimbabwe in response to the "scandalous" treatment of Nowak.

Ziegler, who has previously served as a U.N. special investigator, known as a rapporteur, said failing to respond strongly to what happened to Nowak could inspire "any other lawless state" to behave similarly.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon "is disappointed" that Nowak was denied entry to Zimbabwe and supports the High Commissioner for Human Rights' call for the government to provide "full access" to all human rights entities and investigators, U.N. spokeswoman Michele Montas said at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Amnesty International's Zimbabwe researcher, Simeon Mawanza, said Nowak's barring reflected an "increased level of desperation among those forces who are opposed to the unity government." □

Haitian prime minister faces Senate challenge

JONATHAN M. KATZ

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Prime Minister Michele Pierre-Louis was facing a challenge Thursday from senators in the president's party who are trying to remove her, a move that could hinder international efforts to increase foreign investment in the impoverished country.

Pierre-Louis — whose year in office was spent focused on hurricane rebuilding and reducing poverty worsened by soaring food prices — was summoned to answer questions about a \$197 million government storm-recovery fund.

But she refused to attend the session, which senators said would likely lead to her dismissal.

"It is an insult that she decided not to come," Sen. John Joel Joseph, a member of President Rene Preval's Lespwa movement, told reporters.

Pierre-Louis explained her

decision in a letter to Senate President Kelly Bastien.

"At a time when efforts are under way for Haiti to join the international community and it has possibilities of investment, national and international, to better the lives of the Haitian population ... my government decides not to participate in this hearing," she wrote.

She added, "I leave the senators of the republic to face their responsibility in front of the nation."

The hearing surprised many when it was announced last week.

As is often the case in politically tumultuous Haiti — which in the past five years has ousted a president in a bloody rebellion and gone through four previous prime ministers — the exact nature of the challenge against Pierre-Louis is not clear.

The storm recovery money in question was funded with savings from the Venezuelan-sponsored Petrocaribe



From left: Haiti's Prime Minister Michele Pierre-Louis, UN special envoy to Haiti and former US President Bill Clinton, Haiti's President Rene Preval and Inter American Development Bank, IDB, President Luis Alberto Moreno pose for pictures during an IDB meeting in Port-au-Prince, Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009. Clinton and a trade delegation of at least 200 businessmen arrived to encourage a trade and investment mission in Haiti.

Associated Press

Jamaica balks at U.S. request for alleged crime boss

MIKE MELIA,

Associated Press Writer

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Jamaica is resisting a U.S. request to hand over a suspected crime boss with ties to the Caribbean nation's governing party amid reports he is stockpiling weapons in his Kingston stronghold to prevent arrest.

The island's government, which received the extradition request for Christopher "Dudus" Coke in August, has so far only responded with requests for more information about the gun and drug trafficking charges against the reputed gang leader.

Coke, identified by the U.S. Justice Department as one of the world's most dangerous drug kingpins, allegedly controls a band of gunmen inside Tivoli Gardens, a barricaded neighborhood of Kingston, the capital of Jamaica and a city with one of the highest homicide rates in the Western Hemisphere.

U.S. authorities are voicing frustration that Jamaica is not moving more quickly to honor a mutual extradition treaty.

"The U.S. government is looking forward to the Jamaican government respecting their obligations under the treaty," Patricia Attkisson, spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Kingston, said Thursday.

The political opposition has also criticized the government for putting Jamaica into what it

calls a standoff over Coke, who is known for his loyalty to the Jamaica Labor Party. Island gangs have loose affiliations with both major parties — a legacy of the 1970s, when political factions provided the guns to intimidate rivals. "The cascading effect of international reaction to the administration's inaction could lead ultimately to Jamaica being labeled and declared a 'rogue state,' with lasting adverse implications for our people," said Peter Bunting, a lawmaker with the opposition People's National Party. A government spokesman did not respond to requests for comment.

Coke's lawyer, Tom Tavares-Finson, said his client has not been in touch with the local government and is not privy to the details of any discussions between the U.S. and Jamaica. "We're waiting to hear what the decision is," said Tavares-Finson, who has dismissed the U.S. charges as "hype."

Coke, the alleged leader of the "Shower Posse" gang, is charged in the U.S. Southern District of New York with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana and conspiracy to illegally traffic in firearms. Coke, 40, faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted.

Under Coke's direction, U.S. authorities allege, "Shower Posse" members have sold marijuana and crack cocaine in the New York area and elsewhere and funneled profits back to him. □

allegations of misuse the prime minister could face, but a majority vote by the 29-member Senate could dismiss Pierre-Louis, who has helped lead efforts to increase foreign investment in the hemisphere's poorest country.

The opposition to her is being led by senators from the Lespwa movement, who took control of the upper chamber in June elections marred by low turnout and fraud allegations. It is unclear if the president, who distanced himself from those politicians during their campaigns, is backing the challenge.

But opposition senators, who in a reversal find themselves supporting the embattled government, point to the chief executive as the one who requested the hearing.

"Senators of the president's party tell us that," Sen. Youri Latortue said. Latortue held up Pierre-Louis' nomination last year but said he would support her Thursday.

The U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince said U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton phoned Preval last Friday, after senators issued their summons to Pierre-Louis. Spokeswoman Mari Tolliver declined to give details of the conversation, but struck a cautionary tone Thursday.

"We have made it known to the Haitian government that the perception of instability could be very damaging to Haiti at this time," Tolliver said.

Pierre-Louis, an educator who headed the Haitian branch of George Soros' Open Society Institute, is well-liked by diplomats but has no real political base.

She took office in September 2008, filling a post that had been vacant for five months after senators dismissed her predecessor during riots over the high cost of food.

Under Haiti's political system, the prime minister, who oversees government ministries, is nominated by the more powerful presidency but approved and potentially removed by parliament. If Pierre-Louis is dismissed, her Cabinet would automatically be disbanded as well.

Preval would be expected to select another prime minister quickly to continue momentum on projects aimed at building garment factories and roads and boosting agriculture.

Some in diplomatic circles speculated Thursday that he would choose Jean-Max Bellerive, minister of planning and external cooperation. An aide to the president said he was unaware that such a decision had been made. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Phillies top Yankees 6-1 in World Series opener

BEN WALKER

AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cliff Lee pitched a six-hitter to outduel CC Sabathia and Chase Utley homered twice as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the New York Yankees 6-1 in a misty Game 1 of the World Series on Wednesday.

In the first Series game at the new billion-dollar Yankee Stadium, Lee struck out 10 and walked none, improving to 3-0 with an 0.54 ERA in these playoffs.

Utley hit solo homers off Sabathia in the third and sixth innings. Sabathia allowed four hits in seven innings, and Philadelphia tacked on four runs against the Yankees' bullpen.

Pedro Martinez starts for the Phillies against A.J. Burnett in Game 2 on Thursday as Philadelphia tries to become the first National League team to repeat since Cincinnati in 1975-76. The Phillies' 17-4 postseason run is the best in league history.

"We have confidence. We know we have a good team," Utley said.

Ryan Howard reprised his MVP performance, doubling twice and driving in the final run for the Phillies. Rodriguez, however, went hitless and struck out three times in his Series debut.

Lee bamboozled the Yankees with a spiked curveball, deceptive changeup and his usual pinpoint fastball, pitching a six-hitter while striking out 10 without a walk.

Lee blanked the Yankees until a run scored on shortstop Jimmy Rollins' throwing error in the ninth inning.

Continued on Page B12



Philadelphia Phillies' Cliff Lee (34) gets a hug from Jimmy Rollins as Chase Utley gives him a high five after the ninth inning of Game 1 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the New York Yankees Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009, in New York. The Phillies won 6-1 to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

Associated Press



Venus Williams of the United States returns a ball during her singles match against Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia at the WTA Tennis Championships, in Doha, Qatar Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009.

Associated Press

MATTIAS KAREN

AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Serena Williams advanced first into the semifinals of the Sony Ericsson Championships after beating Elena Dementieva 6-2, 6-4 for her third straight win in the group phase on Thursday.

Her sister Venus, the defending champion, also stayed alive by beating Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-4 for her first win in three matches. She still needs Kuznetsova to beat Dementieva on Friday to have a chance of advancing from the Maroon Group.

In the White Group, Caroline Wozniacki overcame severe leg cramps and a tenacious Vera Zvonareva to win 6-0, 6-7 (3), 6-4. Zvonareva, who replaced injured No. 1 Dinara Safina on

Serena reaches Doha semifinals with 3rd win

Wednesday, then pulled out the tournament citing a right ankle injury. Her place will be taken by the second alternate, Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, who will play Victoria Azarenka on Friday but has no chance of advancing.

Serena was broken to trail 2-1 in the first set but then won seven straight games to take control of the match, moving Dementieva around the court with her powerful ground strokes.

She converted her third match point when Dementieva sent the ball into the net, then pumped her fist and yelled "Finally!"

Serena, who secured the year-end No. 1 ranking after Safina retired with a back injury, has failed to get out of the round-robin phase of the elite tournament for the last two years.

"I'm happy to finally do well," she said. "I'm kind of used to the elimination thing: If you lose, you're out. But I was just trying to do better than I did last year, and compete in all my matches, which sometimes is very hard."

Dementieva, who rallied from a set down to beat Venus in their opening match, didn't find her stride against Serena until trailing 2-0 in the second set, as the encounter failed to live up to their epic three-set Wimbledon semifinal — billed by many as the best women's match of the year.

Dementieva won the longest game of the match after converting her fifth break point to make it 2-1, and the set went with serve until the last game.

Venus, who lost another three-setter to Serena on Thursday, broke Kuznetsova at love for a 5-4 lead in the third set and then converted her third match point when the Russian's backhand landed in the net shortly before 1 a.m. local time. □



Paul Casey of England plays against Australia's Scott Strange in the hole 11th during the world match play golf championship tournament in Casares, southern Spain, Thursday, Oct. 29, 2009.

Associated Press

Casey loses twice at World Match Play Championship

CASARES, Spain (AP) — Paul Casey, the highest ranked entrant at No. 4, can't progress out of the group stage of the World Match Play Championship after losing twice on Thursday.

The Englishman lost by a hole to Scott Strange of Australia and 3 and 2 to American Ryder Cup player Anthony Kim.

Casey, who just returned after tearing a rib muscle on Aug. 6, lost to the 168th-ranked Strange when he missed a 7-foot birdie chance at the last.

Asked afterward how the injured area felt, Casey said: "Not great. I can't swing the way I want. I'm coming out of a lot of the shots. Scott played well but, having said that, I gave him three holes on the front and you can't do that against anybody in this field."

Kim tops Group A with four points after beating two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen of South Africa 3 and 2 in the tournament's new round-robin group format.

"This is the first round where I really played solid golf in over a year," Kim said. "I've been scoring pretty sporadically ... but this was a consistent round with some great ball striking. □

NHL Roundup

Crosby's hat trick leads Penguins over Canadiens

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Sidney Crosby's third career hat trick helped the Pittsburgh Penguins become the first NHL team to 10 victories this season, and ended the Montreal Canadiens' four-game winning streak by 6-1 on Wednesday.

Crosby had his third multiple-goal game in 12 starts this season for Pittsburgh. Chris Kunitz also scored and assisted on all three of Crosby's goals. Mike Rupp and Alex Goligoski added goals, and Bill Guerin had three assists. Marc-Andre Fleury made 23 saves, allowing only Tomas Plekanec's power-play goal. Avalanche 3, Flames 2

At Calgary, Alberta, Wojtek Wolski broke a tie at 5:31 of the third period, and Craig Anderson made 30 saves to help Colorado reach 10 victories.

Wolski scored his team-high eighth goal, beating Miikka Kiprusoff with a wrist shot from the high slot. Anderson has started all 13 games for Colorado (10-1-2).

Calgary's Jarome Iginla and Olli Jokinen scored 15 seconds apart early in the first period, but David Koci and David Jones countered for Colorado in the period.

Islanders 3, Rangers 1

At Uniondale, New York, Islanders captain Doug Weight, in his first game back following a bout with swine flu, earned an assist on Kyle Okposo's tiebreaking, power-play goal late in the second period.

Matt Moulson and John Tavares also scored, and Dwayne Roloson stopped 34 shots in the Islanders' first regulation win of the season. P.A. Parenteau, in the Rangers' lineup only because top scorer Marian Gaborik sat out because of an undisclosed injury sustained two nights earlier, scored his first NHL goal.

Blues 5, Hurricanes 2

At Raleigh, North Carolina, David Perron had two

goals, Yan Stastny and Jay McClement scored 16 seconds apart, and Chris Mason made 34 saves for St. Louis.

Andy McDonald also scored for the Blues. Joe Corvo and Scott Walker scored for Carolina.

Sabres 4, Devils 1

At Newark, New Jersey, Clarke MacArthur and Tim Kennedy scored early in the first period, and Ryan Miller made 31 saves to help Buffalo improve to 4-0 on the road.

Paul Gaustad and Jason Pominville iced the game with third-period goals. Defenseman Andy Greene scored on a power play for New Jersey.

Coyotes 4, Blue Jackets 1

At Columbus, Ohio, Martin Hanzal, Zbynek Michalek and Robert Lang scored power-play goals, and Jason LaBarbera made 31 saves for Phoenix.

James Vandermeer also scored, and Keith Yandle had

three assists.

Derick Brassard scored for Columbus.

Senators 4, Panthers 3

At Sunrise, Florida, Nick Foligno and Jarkko Ruutu scored in a 38-second span late in the second period in Ottawa's win over Florida.

Mike Fisher and Daniel Alfredsson also scored, and defenseman Filip Kuba added two assists after missing the previous eight games because of a lower-body injury.

Steve Reinprecht, Stephen Weiss and Bryan McCabe scored for Florida, which has lost four straight.

Pedators 4, Wild 3

At St. Paul, Minnesota, Jerred Smithson scored a short-handed goal midway through the third period to give Nashville its second regulation victory of the season.

Shea Weber had a goal and an assist, J.P. Dumont and Mike Santorelli added goals, and Steve Sullivan had two assists.



Pittsburgh Penguins' Sidney Crosby celebrates his third goal of the game with teammate Chris Kunitz (14) against the Montreal Canadiens in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009.

Associated Press

Pekka Rinne improved to 2-3 on the season, stopping 11 shots after replacing Dan Ellis in the second.

Brent Burns, Cal Clutterbuck and Owen Nolan scored for Minnesota.

In other NHL games it was, Phoenix 4, Columbus 1; N.Y. Islanders 3, N.Y. Rangers

1; St. Louis 5, Carolina 2; Buffalo 4, New Jersey 1; Pittsburgh 6, Montreal 1; Ottawa 4, Florida 3; Dallas 4, Toronto 3, OT; Nashville 4, Minnesota 3; Colorado 3, Calgary 2; and San Jose 2, Los Angeles 1, SO. □

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**WORLD SERIE***Continued from Page B10*

The left hander improved to 3-0 with an 0.54 ERA this postseason.

If Lee felt any nerves in his Series debut, facing the team that led the majors in wins, homers and runs, it didn't show. And if the Phillies were supposed to be intimidated of the pictures of Babe Ruth and all the Yankees greats on the giant videoboard, it didn't happen.

"To be honest I really never have been nervous in the big leagues. This is what I wanted to do my whole life. This is what I take pride in. For me there is no reason to be nervous," he said.

"Game time is the time go out there and have fun and let your skills take over. It's kind of weird. Boils down to confidence and trusting your teammates."

Lee beat his good friend and former Cy Young award-winning teammate Carsten Charles Sabathia in the first game at this ballpark back in April, and got this chance after the Phillies traded four minor leaguers to Cleveland in July to get him.

Playing in their 40th World Series, and first in six years, the Yankees went quietly.

Utley's homers gave Lee all the support he needed. Raul Ibanez hit a two-run single in the eighth and Shane Victorino added an RBI single in the ninth.

The Phillies' may have been a bit overdue — in their only other October meeting, the

Whiz Kids from Philadelphia got swept by the Yankees in the 1950 World Series and totaled just five runs.

Even though he's an All-Star, Utley was an unlikely candidate to rock Sabathia, the MVP of the ALCS. Utley was 0 for 7 with five strikeouts against the big Yankees lefty going into the game.

Utley won a nine-pitch duel with Sabathia in the third, pulling a fastball over the right-field wall.

The shot was the first by a left-hander allowed by Sabathia at home this year.

Utley struck again in the sixth, sending another 95 mph heater deep into the right-center field bleachers. □



Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett (5) and Charlotte Bobcats' Nazr Mohammed (13) battle for the rebound in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009, in Boston.

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Kevin Garnett scored 10 points with seven rebounds during 26 easy minutes in his return to the Boston court as the Celtics held the Charlotte Bobcats to a team-



Philadelphia Phillies' Chase Utley hits a solo home run in the third inning of Game 1 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the New York Yankees Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009, in New York. Yankees catcher is Jorge Posada and umpire is Gerry Davis.

*Associated Press***NBA Roundup****Garnett returns to Celtics in easy win over Bobcats**

low score in a 92-59 victory in their NBA home opener on Wednesday.

Ray Allen scored 18 points and was the only Boston starter to play in the fourth quarter as the Celtics followed their opening-day victory over Cleveland with a blowout of the Bobcats. Paul Pierce scored 15, Rajon Rondo scored 10 with 11 assists and Rasheed Wallace came off the bench with three 3-pointers.

Shelden Williams had 12 points and nine rebounds as a reserve. Gerald Wallace had 10 points and 12 rebounds — the only Bobcat to reach double digits in scoring.

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight

Howard had 21 points and 15 rebounds, Vince Carter scored 15 points and new-look Orlando rolled to a victory over Philadelphia.

In NBA games around the league: Atlanta 120, Indiana 109; Orlando 120, Philadelphia 106; Toronto 101, Cleveland 91; Boston 92, Charlotte 59; Miami 115, New York 93; Detroit 96, Memphis 74; Minnesota 95, New Jersey 93; San Antonio 113, New Orleans 96; Oklahoma City 102, Sacramento 89; Denver 114, Utah 105; Phoenix 109, L.A. Clippers 107; and Houston 108, Golden State 107. □

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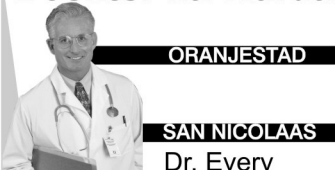
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Retoman diálogo en busca de salida a crisis en Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters) - Negociadores del depuesto presidente de Honduras Manuel Zelaya y del Gobierno de facto reanudaron el jueves el diálogo, esta vez bajo la mediación de Estados Unidos, en lo que podría ser la última posibilidad para hallar una salida consensuada a la crisis política en el país. Presionados por una delegación de funcionarios de Estados Unidos, principal socio comercial de Honduras, las dos partes rivales se sentaron nuevamente en una mesa de diálogo en un hotel de Tegucigalpa, después de que fracasaron intentos anteriores.

Honduras está sumergida en una crisis política desde que militares sacaron a Zelaya del Gobierno a fines de junio a punta de pistola y lo expulsaron del país, acusándolo de violar la Constitución. Desde entonces, ha intentado volver a la presidencia con el apoyo de la comunidad internacional.

En Perú

García plantea referéndum para renovar Congreso de Perú

LIMA (Reuters) - El presidente peruano, Alan García, anunció el jueves que encabezará una cruzada para la realización de un referéndum en el que los ciudadanos se pronuncien sobre la renovación por mitades del Congreso unicameral.

García anunció su propuesta luego de que una comisión legislativa del Congreso rechazó hace unos días la renovación de este poder a la mitad de su mandato de cinco años.

“Quiero decir que encabezaré esta recolección de firmas y le pido ayuda a todo el pueblo peruano, para darle más velocidad de cambio a nuestro sistema”, dijo García a periodistas. El presidente afirmó que espera recolectar más de 1,5 millones de firmas en los próximos meses para presentarlas al Jurado Nacional de Elecciones, el cual deberá luego fijar una fecha para la realización de la consulta popular. □



Una mujer pide limosna en una calle de Tegucigalpa, 28 oct 2009. El presidente depuesto de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, instruyó a sus negociadores para que retomen el diálogo con el Gobierno de facto en un nuevo intento por alcanzar una solución que suponga su retorno al poder, dijo el jueves uno de sus colaboradores. REUTERS/Oswaldo Rivas

Pero el Gobierno interino que preside Roberto Micheletti se niega a restituirlo, algo que ha hecho naufragar las rondas anteriores de conversaciones y hasta el miércoles mantenía estancadas las negociaciones.

En las conversaciones, que pueden ser la última oportunidad de un acuerdo antes de las elecciones presidenciales del 29 de noviembre, participó el secretario adjunto para asuntos del Hemisferio Occidental, Thomas Shannon, que encabeza la

delegación estadounidense. Shannon dijo, tras reunirse por cerca de una hora con los negociadores, que la delegación prolongará su estancia hasta el viernes, a petición de las partes. “Obviamente, tenemos mucha esperanza, pero hay mucho por hacer. Sin duda

el tema es difícil”, dijo el funcionario en declaraciones en español en una conferencia de prensa en la embajada de Estados Unidos.

Shannon y su grupo se han reunido con los negociadores de ambas partes, con candidatos a la presidencia, con Micheletti y con Zelaya, que está refugiado en la embajada de Brasil en Tegucigalpa desde que regresó al país hace más de un mes. El diplomático estadounidense volvió a mediodía al hotel sede de las negociaciones, hasta donde trataron de llegar decenas de simpatizantes de Zelaya que fueron dispersados con bombas lacrimógenas en medio de un fuerte dispositivo policial y militar. Medios locales reportaron otras manifestaciones en varios lugares de la capital. La Cruz Roja dijo que atendió a cinco manifestantes heridos por golpes con palos, pero ninguno de gravedad. La televisión local mostró como un policía le pegaba a un hombre de unos 40 años que se encontraba sentado □

Anuncian posible juicio político a Lugo

ASUNCION (AP) - Una supuesta mayoría de parlamentarios pretende iniciarle un juicio político al presidente Fernando Lugo para sacarlo del poder, según informó el titular del congreso, el senador opositor Miguel Carrizosa.

El ex obispo católico lleva 14 meses al frente del Poder Ejecutivo y constitucionalmente debe permanecer en el cargo hasta el 15 de agosto de 2013.

El mecanismo del juicio político consiste en que los diputados (80 escaños) deben aprobar por mayoría absoluta la acusación y luego el senado (45 curules) juzgar.

“Algunos senadores me dijeron que tienen los votos necesarios en diputados y senadores para echarlo a Lugo porque, supuestamente, el Presidente no entiende las palabras”, expresó Carrizosa en conferencia de prensa, en alusión a la presunta indiferencia del jefe de estado para enmendar sus supuestos errores.

Carrizosa, militante del partido Patria Querida, cuarta fuerza parlamentaria detrás del Partido Colorado, Partido Liberal Radical Auténtico (PLRA) y Unión Nacional de Ciudadanos Éticos (Unace), acotó: “pero debo reconocer que el presidente Lugo nada contribuye para que haya un clima de tranquilidad”.

“No creo que echando a Lugo se pudiesen solucionar los problemas del país pero el jefe de estado tiene un discurso de confrontación” y recordó que el sábado, durante una reunión con líderes de un barrio marginal, acusó a la gente adinerada de oponerse al cambio.

Lugo aseguró ese día, según el estatal portal Ipparaguay en la internet: “Los que quieren seguir mirando el pasado de sus privilegios y buen vivir, en defensa de sus cajas de ahorros en bancos internacionales, ellos no quieren cambiar”.

Los individuos con deseos de ver un cambio en el país “son los que no salen cada día en las páginas de sociales de la prensa”, añadió □



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